



**Media Contact:**  
Kathleen Shaffer  
410-902-5053  
[kshaffer@mghus.com](mailto:kshaffer@mghus.com)

Kelly Cahill  
410-504-8312  
[kcahill@mghus.com](mailto:kcahill@mghus.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission Presents  
Fourth Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium  
at Towson University**

***Commission invites public to attend symposium  
to learn about Maryland's stem cell research programs***

**Columbia, Md. (Sept. 26, 2011)** – The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission) will present the Fourth Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2011. The Symposium, hosted by Towson University, is the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund's (MSCRF) premier event, featuring posters or presentations by all currently funded MSCRF awardees, scientific talks, a bioethics panel, technology exhibits, and networking time. The Commission will release its 2012 Requests for Applications (RFAs) at the Symposium.

"This year's Symposium not only showcases the work of 180 top ranked Maryland scientists, addressing over 100 diseases and conditions, but also presents an overview of the rapidly evolving field of stem cell biology," said Margaret Conn Himelfarb, MPH, chair of the Commission. "This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for investigators at academic institutions and private companies, as well as the general public, to obtain a better understanding of the significance of our program and the innovative findings of our world class researchers."

Symposium sessions will cover bioethics in human stem cell research, the use of pluripotent stem cells in disease modeling and treatment, and translating research to the clinic. The agenda includes remarks by Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, and interim president of Towson University, Marcia Welsh. The second annual memorial lecture honoring the late John L. Kellermann III – a founding member of the Commission and passionate advocate for stem cell research – will be a highlight of the symposium. Dr. Curt I. Civin, associate dean for research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and director of the Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, will deliver the Kellermann Memorial Lecture on the topic of emerging research in hematopoietic stem-progenitor cells.

"As a research-focused university, we are extremely pleased to be hosting this year's Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium," said Marcia Welsh, interim president of Towson University. "In addition to programs like the MSCRF, the scientific exploration of Maryland's colleges and universities contributes greatly to making our State a front-runner in bioscience. The Symposium is a perfect fit with the University's philosophy of connecting talent and resources to provide solutions that improve our world."

The Symposium runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration is \$75 per person and is open to the public. To register for the Symposium, get details about location, and see the complete list of presentations, speakers, and a detailed agenda, visit <http://www.msccrf.org>.

**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

Members of the media are encouraged to attend the Fourth Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium. Advanced media credentialing is **required** for access to the symposium. For more information, or to request a media pass, please contact Kelly Cahill at 410-504-8312 or [kcahill@mghus.com](mailto:kcahill@mghus.com).

**About the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission**

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) was established by the State of Maryland under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006 to promote State-funded stem cell research and cures through grants and loans to public and private entities in the State. Administered by The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), the MSCRF is overseen by an independent Commission that sets policy and develops criteria, standards and requirements for applications to the Fund. The current MSCRF budget for FY2012 is \$12.4 million. For more information about the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and a list of Commission members, please visit [www.mscref.org](http://www.mscref.org).

###